

# RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT (RCRA) CORRECTIVE ACTION CLEANUP PROGRAM

## ISSUE SUMMARY:

EPA announced the final 2030 Vision, Mission and Goals for the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Corrective Action Program on September 1, 2020. The next 10 years of work under this effort is critical to completing cleanups at facilities with RCRA Corrective Action responsibilities. For the past 16 years, the program has been driven by aspirational goals announced in May 2004 which were focused on meeting certain cleanup targets by 2020. In the Spring of 2020, the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (ORCR) initiated a series of discussions to gather input from a wide range of stakeholders toward the development of a high-level vision, mission and goals for the RCRA Corrective Action program for the next 10 years. EPA developed the 2030 Vision, Mission and Goals for the program taking into account input from stakeholders. The next steps for the RCRA Corrective Action Program are development and launch of a 2030 Goals Implementation Plan to implement the 2030 Vision, Mission and Goals over the next 10 years.

## UPCOMING MILESTONES:

- **December 31, 2020** – Close of 2020 Goals
- **Summer 2021** – Complete development of 2030 Goals Implementation Plan
- **Fall 2021** – Launch 2030 Goals Implementation Plan

## BACKGROUND:

Corrective Action is a requirement under RCRA that facilities that treat, store or dispose of hazardous wastes must investigate and clean up any releases of hazardous waste and constituents from their facilities.

### 2020 Goals

Ambitious and farsighted 2020 Goals set in the early years of implementation of RCRA Corrective Action targeted achieving 95% completion of three important cleanup milestones, and the results are impressive. Of the 3,779 Baseline facilities currently of priority for the program, projections for the end of 2020 are:

- Human Exposures Under Control – projected to be met by 96% of facilities
- Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control – projected to be met by 91% of facilities
- Remedy Construction – projected to be met by 79% of facilities

### Developing New 2030 Vision/Mission/Goals

Although significant progress was made under the 2020 Goals, there remains a great deal of difficult work to be done to complete cleanups at all facilities with RCRA Corrective Action responsibilities. To kick off the next 10 years of this critical work, ORCR hosted discussions with stakeholder groups, including members of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), community organizers, federal agencies, local governments through the Revitalizing Communities Workgroup of EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC), facility owner/operators, tribal partners, and state partners, including the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO). On August 19, 2020, EPA hosted a multi-stakeholder roundtable at which all stakeholders involved in the initial discussions were invited to share their reactions and suggestions to revised draft

2030 Vision, Mission and Goals. Feedback regarding the importance of focusing on protection of human health and the environment, long-term protectiveness of cleanups, revitalization of contaminated properties to support current and future uses was taken into account in making final revisions. EPA announced the final vision, mission and goals for the program at the ASTSWMO Virtual Corrective Action Conference on September 1, 2020.

### 2030 Vision/Mission/Goals

The 2030 Vision, Mission, and Goals are below.

For more information: [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-09/documents/rcra\\_corrective\\_action\\_program\\_vision.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-09/documents/rcra_corrective_action_program_vision.pdf)

#### Vision:

RCRA Corrective Action cleanups support healthy and sustainable communities where people and the environment are protected from hazardous contamination today and into the future.

#### Mission:

EPA, states and tribal partners work together to ensure that owners and operators of hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities conduct effective and efficient cleanups to protect human health and the environment, support continued use, and make land ready for reuse including, if necessary, placement of controls to protect communities into the future.

#### Goals:

1. Through 2030, the RCRA Corrective Action Program will ensure that RCRA cleanups are initiated and completed efficiently and expeditiously. Commitments regarding what work is planned and what progress is made will be visible to the public. An ambitious universe of cleanups will be identified for completion by 2030.
2. By 2030, the RCRA Corrective Action Program will eliminate or control adverse impacts beyond facility boundaries at RCRA Corrective Action facilities wherever practicable and the program will focus attention on cleanups that will not meet this target.
3. By 2030, the RCRA Corrective Action Program will ensure or confirm that land within facility boundaries at RCRA Corrective Action facilities will be safe for continued use or reasonably foreseeable new uses wherever practicable and the program will focus attention on cleanups that will not meet this target.
4. By 2025, the RCRA Corrective Action Program will identify the key elements of effective Long-term Stewardship for Corrective Action cleanups, and regions and states will have approaches in place to ensure implementation of the key elements.
5. By 2022, program procedures will be in place to regularly adjust the universe of facilities in the cleanup pipeline to reflect current program priorities.

#### KEY EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS:

☒ Congress      ☒ Industry      ☒ States      ☒ Tribes      ☒ Media      ☒ Other Federal Agency  
☒ NGO      ☒ Local Governments      ☒ Other (name of stakeholder) nearby communities

As EPA implements the RCRA program together with authorized states, states, as well as tribes, are key partners. Stakeholder concerns include protecting health and the environment in communities in which cleanups are located, efficiency of cleanup processes, use and redevelopment of land, and long-term protectiveness of cleanup remedies.

#### MOVING FORWARD:

ORCR will work closely with its state implementing partners to develop and launch the 2030 Goal Implementation Plan. The implementation plan will address long-term goals, short-term objectives, action plans, measurement procedures, stakeholder engagement, and communications.

LEAD OFFICE/REGION: OLEM

OTHER KEY OFFICES/REGIONS: OECA, REGIONS 1-10